

## THE HAYS FREE PRESS

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## NEWS FOR VETERANS

The executive committee of the National American Legion convention has decided to institute a contest for the national convention song. This action has been caused by the flood of musical compositions that have been received by the committee.

Just 11,617 claims from disabled veterans have been received at the Veterans' Bureau from the clean-up squads and 3,492 have been settled. In one day recently 1,324 cases were received in Washington and it is expected the daily business of the squads will net 2,000 cases daily in a short time.

Forty-eight of these squads are at work now, one in every state, and a special division has been organized in the central office at Washington to look after the cases sent in and expedite their settlement. Just how long these squads will operate has not been announced, but Colonel Forbes stated at the time they were planned that he expected them to hunt out every disabled veteran with a claim against the government before they quit. Such being the case, it is likely they will be operating for several months yet, at least.

Acting under instructions from President Harding, General Pershing sailed for France recently, where, on October 21, he will present the Medal of Honor voted by congress to the unknown soldier whose body is buried beneath the Arc de Triomphe.

In announcing General Pershing's mission, Secretary of War Weeks said:

"The French government has announced its intention of signaling by appropriate military ceremonies the action of Congress as but another evidence of the historic relations which have always prevailed between the two republics."

While in France the former com-

mander of the A. E. F. will make a tour of inspection of the graves where the American soldiers are buried and of the American forces in Germany. The trip will be hurried, as Secretary Weeks is anxious to have General Pershing in this country by November 1 in order to greet Marshal Foch, General Diaz of Italy, and other prominent foreign military officials who are coming to this country for the national convention of the American Legion.

The movement to bring the national convention of the American Legion in 1922 to New Orleans is rapidly gaining momentum. A plan of flooding the delegates to the convention this year with literature is being worked out and as soon as the names and addresses are secured the deluge of propaganda will be released.

The bodies of thousands of American soldiers killed during the World war and returned from overseas are occupying unmarked graves in this country, with congress to blame for the condition, according to reports of the national legislative committee and service division of the American Legion.

Hundreds of letters from gold star parents reciting the government's failure to furnish grave markers as promised and as required have been received by the Legion organizations. Congress, however, has failed to appropriate sufficient funds to carry out the law, which provides uniform government headstones for the country's military and naval dead.

A tentative program for the national convention of American Legion, October 31, November 1 and 2, has been drawn up, but nothing definite can be announced until approved by John G. Emery, national commander.

As outlined by Ruby D. Garrett, chairman of the program committee, the schedule calls for a business session on each of the three days. A varied assortment of entertainments also have been listed, and Colonel Garrett expects them to be of such wide appeal as to furnish amusement to every one of the thousands of veterans who will be there.

All features have been so arranged that delegates who are compelled to attend business sessions will not be cheated out of the fun.

Senator Peter Norbeck of South Dakota having voted to recommit the

adjusted compensation bill to the finance committee of the senate, sent a telegram to all Legion posts in the state which had wired to him, and has further explained his action in a letter to Charles S. Brant, a service man, who frankly wrote to Norbeck that the veterans were bitterly disappointed by his action. An interesting statement in the Norbeck telegrams is to the effect that "the President favors a national bonus, as does every senator."

The telegram sent out by Senator Norbeck was as follows:

"Replying to your telegram will say that I always believed that the soldiers were entitled to readjusted compensation. You will remember my vigorous support of the state bonus plan which included calling of legislature in special session. The President favors a national bonus as does also every senator. The bonus will come as soon as conditions of government treasury will make such a payment possible. At present the government is devoting its funds to taking care of the wounded and disabled thereby giving them preference. Universal bonus plan has been deferred for present at request of President Harding and secretary of the treasury. Peter Norbeck."

## SCRAPS

The first nunnery was established in France.

Pistols came into use early in the 16th century.

South Americans use corn husks as cigaret wrappers.

The sun gives 800,000 times more light than the moon.

Mendelssohn began studying music at the age of eight.

The paper output of America is the largest in the world.

London was founded in 43 A. D. by a Roman governor of Britain.

The air of Yankee Doodle is as old as the time of Cromwell.

Louisville, Ky., is the largest leaf tobacco market in the world.

Beethoven learned to play the harpsicord at the age of four.

Once an Arab girl is married she never leaves her house again.

United States chemists discovered thirty-two new poisons during the World war.

The population of Paris has increased only 16,000 in the last ten years.

Switzerland requires all its children to have at least three years schooling.

The Mt. Cenis tunnel in Europe is eight miles long and cost \$15,000,000.

Women motor bus conductors in Japan receive on an average \$18.50 a month.

Only nine per cent of the population of Mexico know how to read and write.

Thirty-five secretaries are required to deal with the pope's correspondence.

Women grow old among primitive people much earlier than in higher civilizations.

The surface of the Dead Sea is 1,400 feet lower than the surface of the Mediterranean.

Since the war Danish railroads have placed large orders for locomotives in the United States.

The Surinam toad carries its eggs and young on its back in small, rounded depressions of the skin.

The winter wheat crop yield of European Russia is about three-fifths as great as the summer yield.

The largest sum ever spent in improving one street was \$14,300,000, on the Rue de Rivoli, in Paris.

All the hair combs in a Chinese household are saved, spun into long threads and woven into stockings.

A dangerous leopard used in movieland in California was electrocuted and a perfect pelt obtained.

The Chinese tael, now used for reckoning financial transactions is not a coin, but a measured stab of silver.

Plums, peaches, prunes, cherries, and apricots are plant world cousins, all belonging to the genus prunes.

Temperatures of the sea at the surface vary from twenty-eight degrees in the polar regions to eighty-six in the tropics.

West Virginia exports to other states natural gas to the amount of nearly 125,000,000,000 cubic feet a year.

Plaster of paris derives its name from the fact that it was originally obtained from Montmartre, a suburb of Paris.

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